

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A composition which has been subjected to sterilizing irradiation comprising an irradiated mixture of an enzyme to which has been added and a source of lactate ions and a source of zinc ions and/or a source of ammonium ions sufficient to maintain activity of the enzyme after radiation sterilization.
2. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme is in a wet active state.
3. (original): A composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the source of ammonium ions comprises ammonium sulphate or 2-acrylamido-2-methyl propanesulphonic acid, ammonium salt (ammonium AMPS).
4. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the source of zinc ions is any compound capable of releasing zinc ions or zinc-containing ions in water.
5. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 4, wherein the source of lactate ions is any compound capable of releasing lactate ions or lactate-containing ions in water.
6. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 5, wherein the source of zinc ions and source of lactate ions is zinc lactate.
7. (original): A composition according to claim 6, wherein the source of zinc ions and source of lactate ions is zinc L-lactate.
8. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition additionally comprises one or more ingredients selected from sugar alcohols, proteins and neutral water-soluble polymers.
9. (original): A composition according to claim 8, wherein the composition additionally comprises a source of proteins.
10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the sterilising radiation is gamma radiation.
12. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme comprises an oxidase.
13. (original): A composition according to claim 12, wherein the oxidase comprises glucose oxidase.
14. (original): A composition according to claim 12 or 13, including zinc lactate.
15. (original): A composition according to claim 12 or 13, including sodium lactate and ammonium AMPS.
16. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme comprises catalase.
17. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme comprises lactoperoxidase.
18. – 26. (canceled)